



A HESSIAN POINT OF VIEW: Captain Friedrich von Muenchhausen

Diary entry, November 19-20, 1776:

November 19: In the evening at ten o'clock, the Hessian grenadiers, jaegers, and the English reserves, a total of 5,000 men under the command of Lord Cornwallis, broke camp quietly.

November 20: At dawn this force was ferried across the Hudson River on large flatboats at two spots and was disembarked approximately six miles from Fort Lee. Both Fort Lee and Fort Constitution were defensible. On the morning that our troops were taken over, both Generals Washington and Putnam were in the fort. When the news of the advance of our troops reached the fort, Washington departed, after giving Putnam the command. Putnam half an hour later, handed the command over to the senior colonel. Shortly thereafter the colonel took flight with all his men, without waiting for a single shot. The rebels left behind 7 mortars, 32 cannon, 432 tents, 400,000 rounds of ammunition, provisions for three months for 5,000 men, and 73 invalids.

Source: Ernst Kipping and Samuel Stelle Smith, eds. *At General Howe's Side, 1776-1778: The Diary of General William Howe's Aide de Camp, Captain Friedrich von Muenchhausen* (Monmouth Beach, NJ, 1974), 5.